

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



February 26, 2007

**East Providence man is sentenced to more than 15 years in prison
for crack cocaine trafficking**

A federal judge has sentenced **Rafael Humero Medina**, 50, of East Providence, to 188 months in prison for trafficking in about 11 & ½ ounces of crack cocaine. Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested Medina in May as he was on his way to make a crack deal.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed on February 23 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In September, Medina pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine and possessing with intent to distribute cocaine. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie S. Browne said that the government could prove that, on May 9, DEA agents seized about 84 grams of crack from above the visor of Medina's car. Agents stopped Medina's car as he was on his way to meet an undercover DEA Task Force agent to sell him the crack.

Agents also found additional crack in one of Medina's pockets. During a search of his residence on Anthony Street in East Providence, agents found more crack cocaine and about 62 grams of cocaine in powder form. They also seized about \$22,000 in cash, a nine millimeter pistol, and two loaded magazines for the pistol.

In March and April, agents had twice observed Medina sell about 50 grams of crack outside a Providence restaurant. On each occasion, agents had followed him from his home on

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Anthony Street. On another occasion, Medina sold about 84 grams of crack to the undercover Task Force officer and another man.

The crack cocaine that Medina sold combined with what agents seized totaled about 328 grams.

The **Drug Enforcement Administration** Task Force conducted the investigation. Detectives from the Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, East Providence, Warwick, Middletown and Bristol police departments are assigned to the DEA Task Force.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Browne prosecuted the case.

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